

## Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 EUR-12 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /074 W  
----- 081700

R 050933Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6169

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 10750

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: MARCOS RESURRECTS "LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL" NOTION

REF: (A) MANILA 2828 (B) MANILA A-23

1. IN REMARKS TO VISITING EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS AUGUST 4, PRESIDENT MARCOS SAID THAT "STUDIES" ARE NOW BEING MADE REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF (NON-ELECTED) LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. PRESIDENT SAID THIS "NECESSARY" (ACCORDING MALACANANG PRESS RELEASE) BECAUSE PEOPLE HAD REJECTED CALLING INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (THE OLD CONGRESS) UNDER TERMS OF NEW CONSTITUTION BY VOTE OF "NINE TO ONE" IN (UNSPECIFIED) "PLEBISCITE." ON AUG 5 PRESIDENT REPEATED GIST OF THESE REMARKS TO CODEL WOLFF.

COMMENT: CONTRARY TO SOME PRESS VERSIONS, PRESIDENT'S REMARKS APPARENTLY INTENDED TO REFER TO JANUARY 1973 REFERENDUM, NOT TO RECENT FEB. 1975 EXERCISE WHEN QUESTION ON CONVENING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WAS INITIALLY PROPOSED BUT

LATER DROPPED FROM BALLOT. IN 1973 EXERCISE AS ANNOUNCED BY GOP, "MAJORITY" OF THOSE WHO APPROVED THE NEW CONSTITUTION CONDITIONED THEIR VOTES ON DEMAND THAT INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY NOT RPT NOT BE CONVENED. HOWEVER, EMBASSY RECORDS INDICATES THAT QUESTION REGARDING ASSEMBLY WAS NEVER DIRECTLY POSED.

2. PRESIDENT THEN GAVE STOCK RECITAL OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND JUSTIFICATION FOR "CRISIS GOVERNMENT" (TEXT OF RELEASE BEING POUCHED DEPARTMENT).

COMMENT: IDEA OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (OR LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL) HAS BEEN FLOATED BEFORE, NEVER VERY SERIOUSLY. IN PAST MARCOS HAS ALWAYS SEEMED RELUCTANT TO RUN RISK OF SHARING POWER WITH ANY ORGANIZATION (NO MATTER HOW CAREFULLY SELECTED) WHICH MIGHT DECIDE TO EMULATE OLD CONGRESSIONAL TRADITION. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE marginally USEFUL TO HAVE A QUASI-LEGISLATIVE BODY FOR PROTOCOLARY AND COSMETIC PURPOSES, NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH WOULD BE DEALING WITH VISITING PARLIAMENTARIANS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, REFERENDUMS, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**TAGS:** PINT, RP, (MARCOS, FERDINAND)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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